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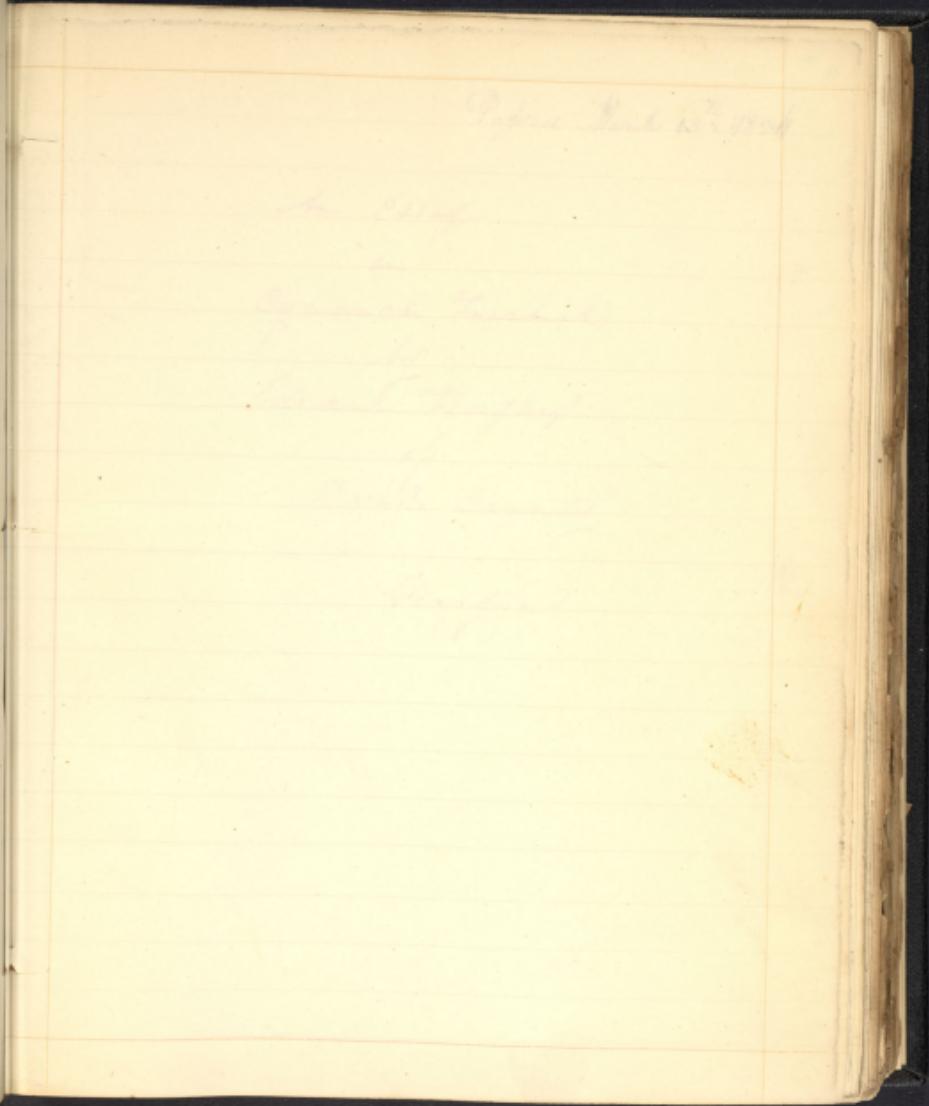
Ch. 720

38. South 8th

*Cymauche Trachialis*

*Edu. H. H. H.*

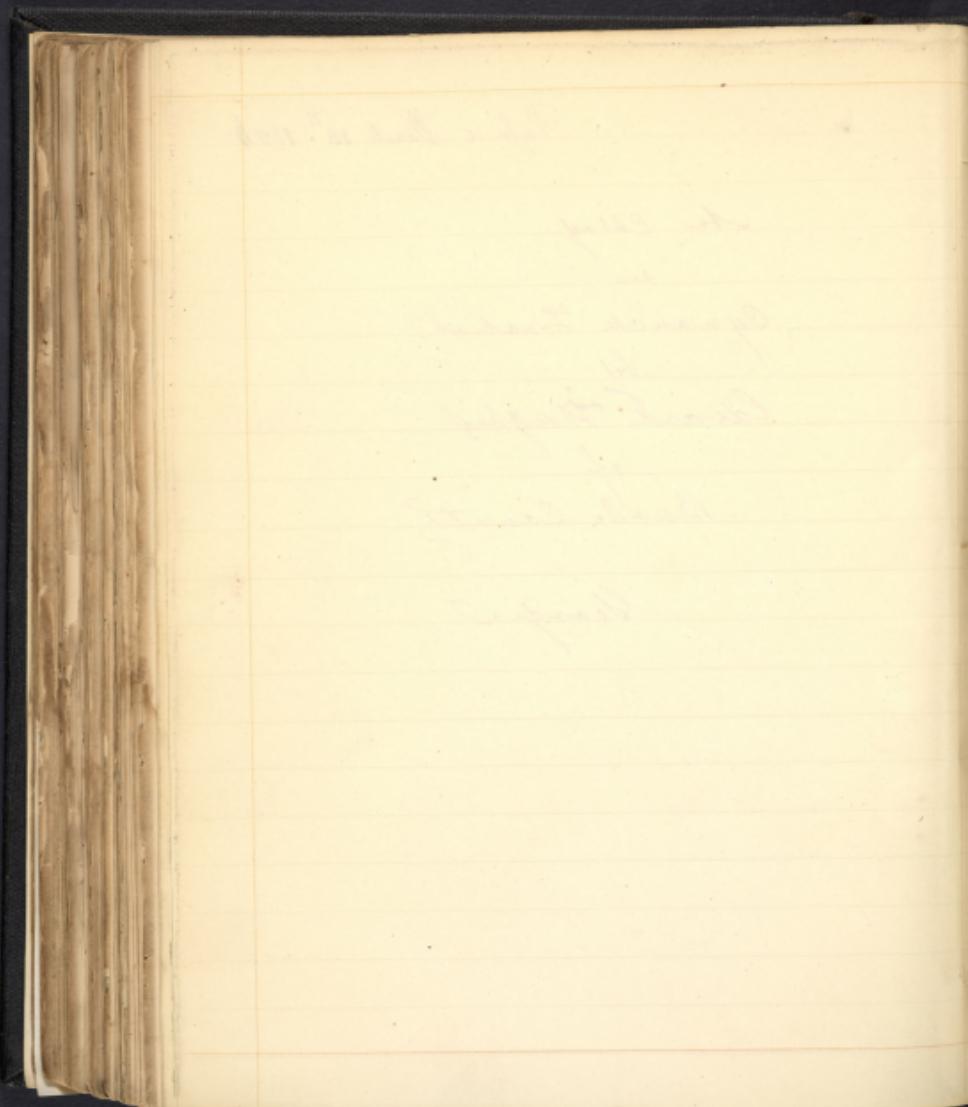
1860-1861



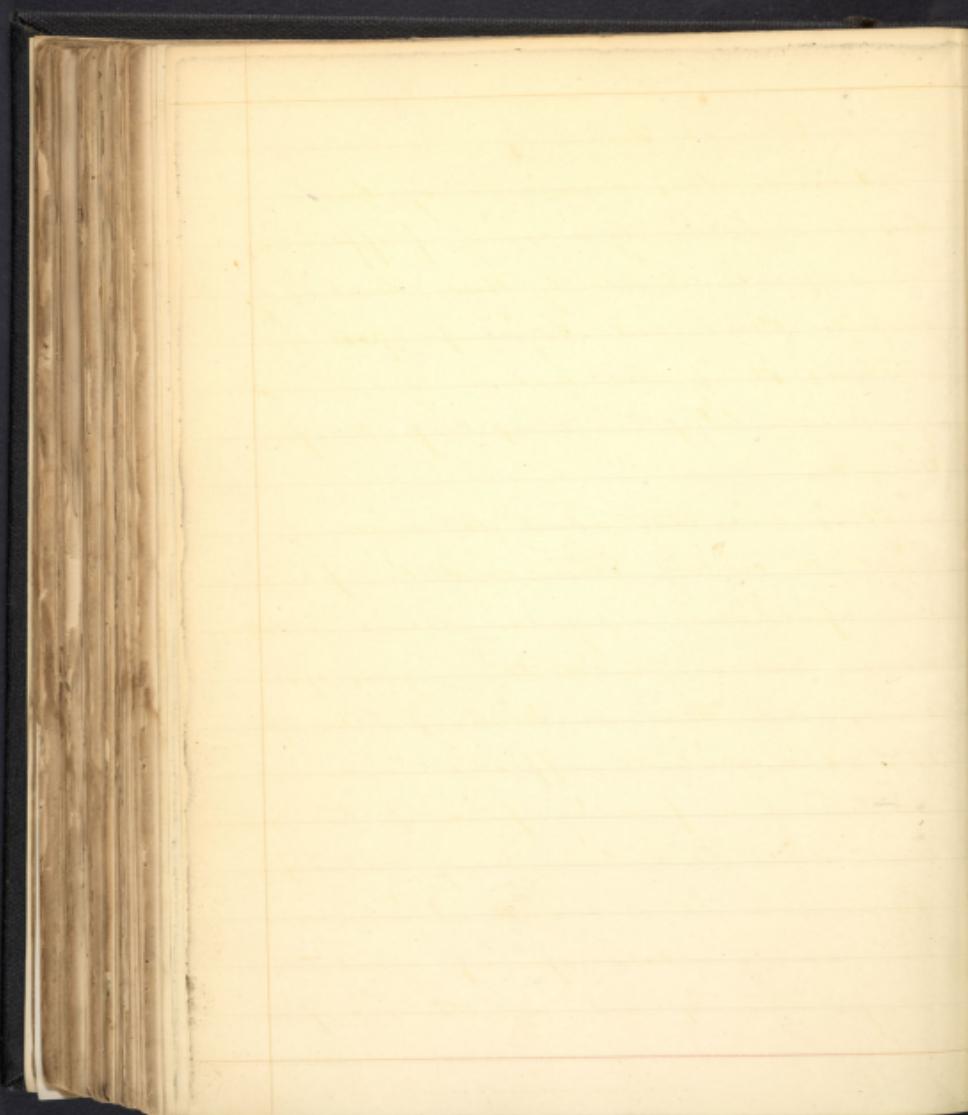
W. H. A. N. 1902

Published March 13<sup>th</sup> 1824

An Essay  
on  
Cynanch Fracaria;  
by  
Edward Hughes  
of  
Bark County  
Georgia



and you are right. I am  
thinking of sending you  
the book I have written  
so far. It is not yet finished  
but I think it is good enough  
for you to see. I am going  
to send it to you in a few days.  
It is not that I don't want you  
to read it now but I have not  
had it published yet and I  
haven't even had it read by  
anyone else. You will be the  
first to read it. I am sending  
it to you in a few days.  
I am going to send it to you  
as soon as I have finished it.



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### Cynanche Strachely

A disease thus denominated by Cullen  
has been known by a variety of appellations  
- as suffocative Strangle by Home, Strachely by  
professor Frank and Angina polypose by  
Michaelis. It is also known by a number  
of vulgar titles such as Crope, Croup,  
Hiving &c.

It is said that about the middle of  
eighteenth century Spisi, an Italian physi-  
cian, published a regular account of this  
disease, and not until thirty years after-  
wards did Home or Michaelis take up  
this as a distinct affection, and one  
worthy of a peculiar plan of treat-  
ment; since that time many authors  
have made it a subject of investiga-  
tion, among whose opinions relative to  
croup, there is not a little discrepan-



of both as regards its nature and treatment, for which Culpeper informs us that it is of rare occurrence, we have the testimony of others in support of its frequency, and where will we find greater controversy of opinion, than in the course of treatment recommended by Hamilton, and that pursued by others of equal eminence.

Why this disease should have remained so long inscrutable and as it were chained from its dire action on the human race is not easily to be explained; - we know that as civilization and refinement advance, man deviates more widely from his original simplicity, by which, disordered actions in his system are aroused, which actions, probably would have slided through time never developing



themselves to the scouting of his intellect  
had he not by his superior power at-  
tempted a melioration of his condition;  
then may we not suppose, that in the  
progress of time, his system constantly  
changing by gradual steps, has arrived  
at that point in the course of its  
alteration, which renders him liable to  
the disease now under consideration.

Be this as it may, enough for us to  
know is that it exists, and when we  
observe with what avidity it seizes on  
those obnoxious to its influence, and the  
suddenness with which it snatches from  
existence the helpless objects of its at-  
tack, we are not disposed to give it  
a subordinate place in the catalogue  
of human maladies.

That this disease is ever contagious

and by giving to the world  
a good report of himself  
and the people he left  
in his absence in you, the  
other day he left for New  
Orleans after many difficulties  
in getting his passage. He  
will be there about the 1st of  
October and will be  
there for you to see him  
and in his absence he will  
be with John and the  
other people there until  
he gets his passage  
and then he will have  
a good opportunity to take  
a good impression in our city  
and to be a good friend  
indeed and  
a good man for the

is conceded by no one at this time, but that it sometimes prevails as an epidemic, and is endemic to some sections of country, cannot be denied. The Cities of Baltimore and Edinburgh, are almost exempt from scourge, which stills point near the former, and a neighbouring village to the latter of these places, one by its ravage incurred with desolation. Dr Caldwell speaking of its epidemic character, says this appears to have been the case in the neighbourhood of Alexandria in Virginia, in the year 1779, the period at which George Washington fell a victim to it, and it was certainly the case in Philadelphia in the winter of 1809-10, when the disease was productive of considerable mortality. On the latter occasion



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we know, says he, from observation,  
that the weather was pleasant for  
the season, yet for several weeks  
the croup prevailed with the char-  
acter of an epidemic, and we are  
informed on authority which we can  
not question, that the same is true  
in relation to the former.

The cause of croup is evidently the sudden change in the atmosphere, from the warm and pleasant to a cold, which if accompanied by humidity seems particularly favourable to its production. Cold air  
acts on the surface of the body, and thus  
makes a certain impression which is by no  
means sympathy transmitted to the trachea  
and larynx in a manner not clearly un-  
derstood by myself. That the direct ap-  
plication of cold air to the trachea, or in

to make out of your writing  
of Lincoln you return the rest  
and send me by express  
as soon as possible  
as we are anxious to have  
a copy of this in time  
to make out a statement  
of it in a few days  
and will be glad to have  
you make out a copy of  
our and that in its  
entirety.

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respiration, is even sufficient of itself to give rise to croup, I cannot believe throwable notwithstanding the air cannot be materially diminished in temperature by the time it reaches this part, it seems that the mucous membrane of the parts, is endowed with a power to resist impressions of a deleterious character from that agent, to the action of which it is so constantly exposed.

The spring of the year most favourable for atmospheric vicissitudes, presents as with the greater number of cases; but as there are sudden transitions in other seasons, it is not wholly restricted to that.

Croup Trachealis has been divided into inflammatory and spasmodic; to this division I am inclined, as there are cases in which the patient immediately after the first prononciation of the disease, is affected



with violent spasm of the glottis and the adjacent parts, so severe indeed as would destroy life in a few moments were not recourse had to remedial agents, while in others it is one or two days forming, exhibiting manifestly an inflammatory condition of the parts concerned in cramp, and to all who have had much to do with this disease, it must be known, that this species requires longer the action of our remedies, for its subversion, than that which comes on suddenly and violently.

Dissections of those who have died with cramp, show the parts in a variety of situations. In some we find marks of a slight degree of inflammation, in others thick matter resembling mucus in some others, a membrane similar



to that which succeeds inflammation of  
the plumb and bony, formed from the  
coagulation lymph of the blood,) and over  
in a few days we find the parts perfectly  
natural, exhibiting not the least sign  
of derangement. The above shew to me  
clearly the propriety of this deviation.  
Some persons have objected to spasmodic  
cough, because, say they, the antispas-  
modics will not relieve it. But those  
who make this objection, cannot certain-  
ly recollect that emetics and emu-  
nies are our principal remedies for cough  
of this kind, but why, they ask do  
not Musc, Assafetida &c produce  
benefit when exhibited in this disease?  
To this may be answered, such articles  
require a longer time for the develop-  
ment of their action, than the ordinary

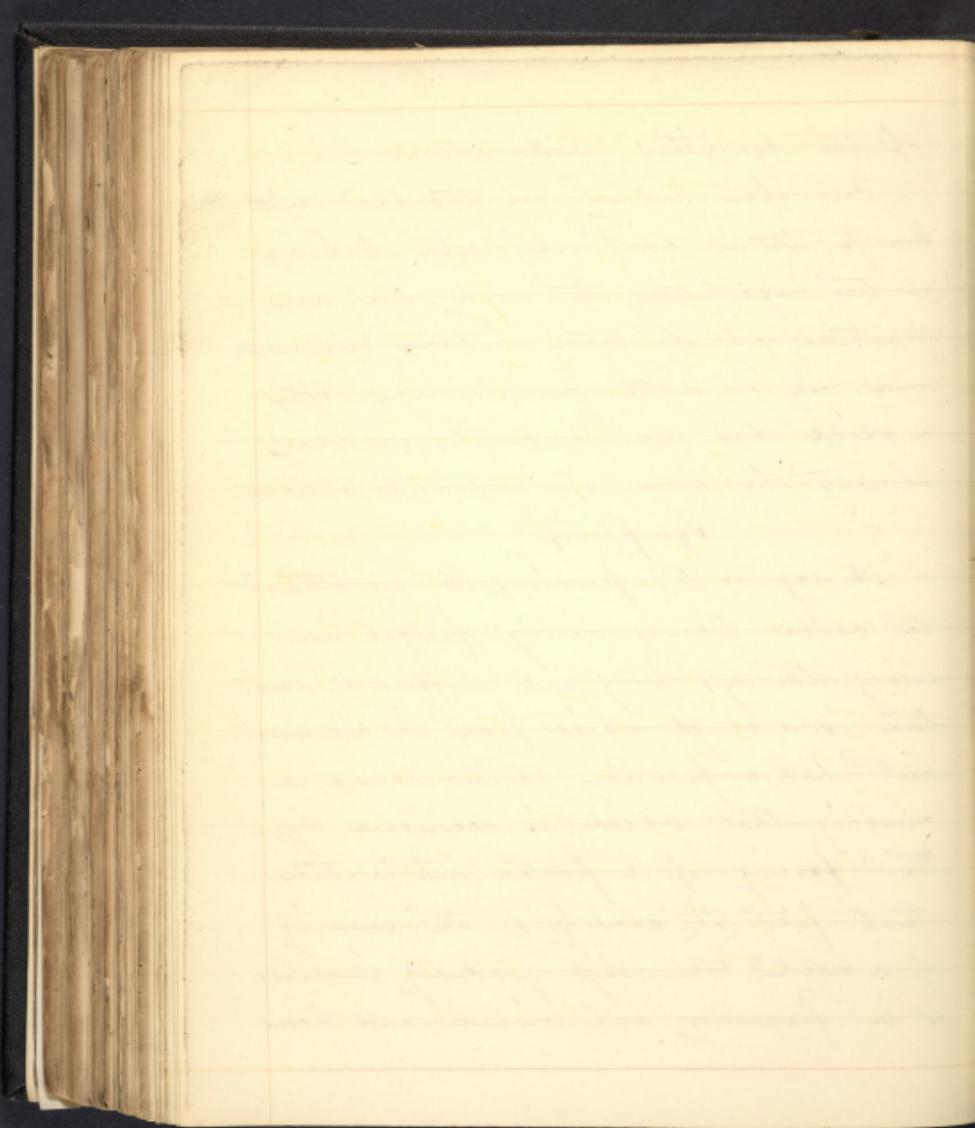


of the symptoms will allow

few after puberty are troubled with  
croup, it is confined, with but one  
or two exceptions, to early life, and  
particularly to those between six months  
and six or eight years of age. After  
a child has once had it, we may  
almost be sure of repeated attacks.

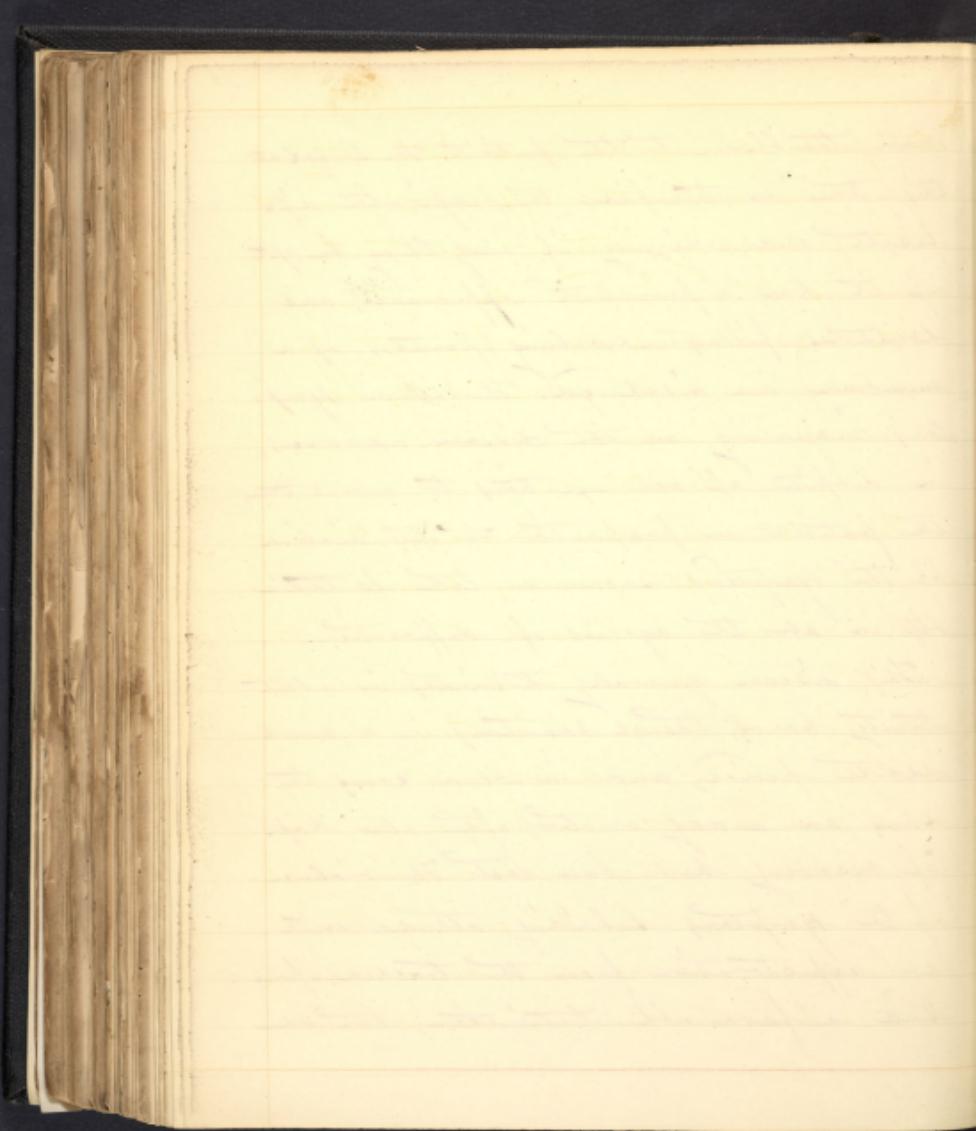
### Symptoms

A day or two preceding to an attack  
the child becomes drowsy, fretful and  
anxious, the eyes heavy and half closed, and  
there is a cough which from its commence-  
ment has a peculiar shrill sound, re-  
sembling that which is occasioned by  
the "forcing of a piston into a tube  
that fits it closely, or the drawing  
of a cock." The cough gradually increases  
in frequency and violence, and becomes



more troublesome to the patient. The larynx at this time is torpid, the respiration difficult and whizzing, if any croup be present it has a prominent appearance, and sometimes films resembling patches of a membrane are discharged. The above symptoms increasing as the disease advances in despite of our exertions to arrest them, the patient, in proportion to the violence of the symptoms sooner or later is taken off in all the agonies of suffocation.

This disease generally terminates in about thirty hours, though sometimes in a much shorter period, and in some cases it may run a day or two after all signs of recovery have been lost. The violence of the symptoms subsiding, attended with an expectoration from the trachea, promises a favorable termination, but when



the pulse is irregular and intermitting with high fever, respiration difficult, frequent fits of coughing without expectoration, the mouth is to be feared. "An eruption of blisters and blisters, which frequently appear and disappear in the course of this disease, is always a favourable symptom."

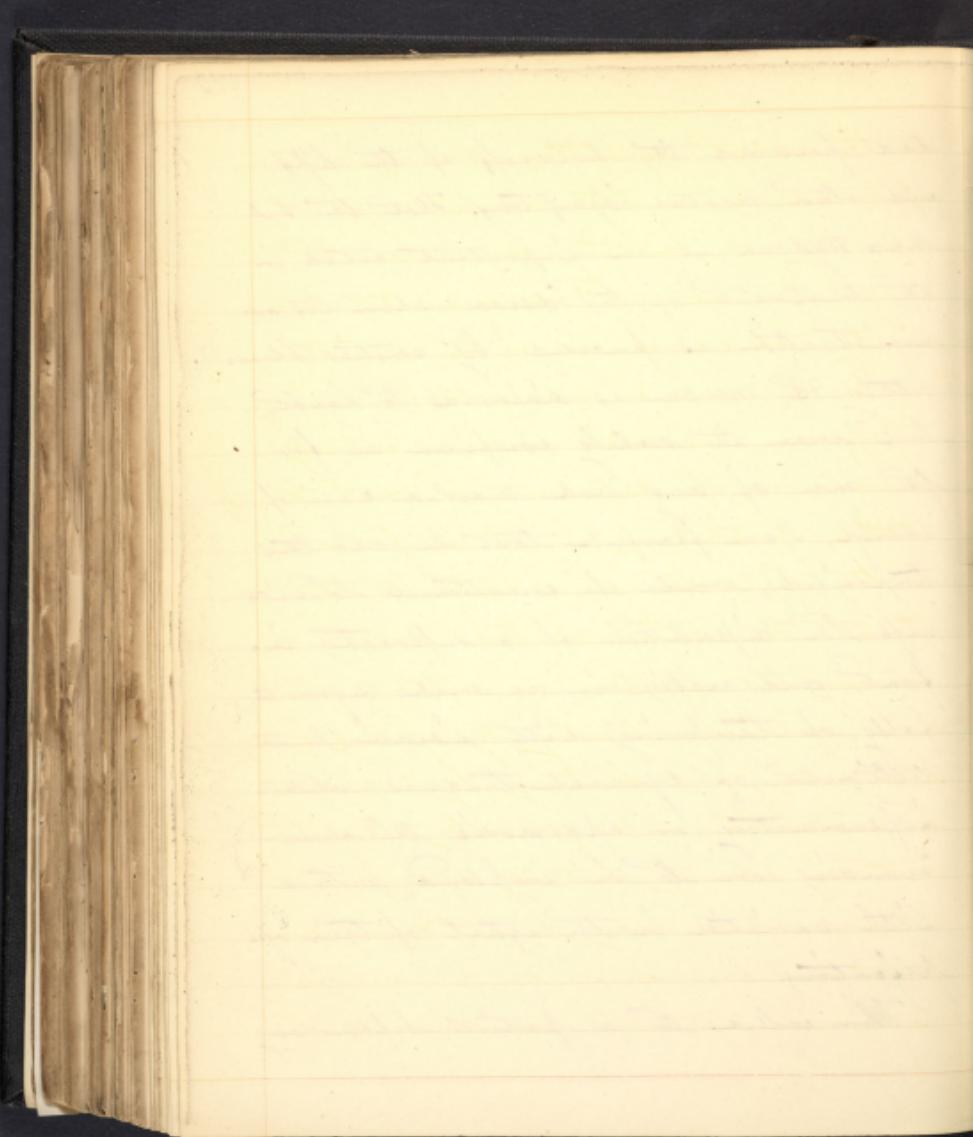
#### Treatment

From the very nature of Croup, the most prompt and active measures should be taken as early as possible to arrest it in its commencement, or to mitigate its asperity as to render it entirely obedient to the action of subsequent remedies. It is not a little surprising to hear an eminent author recommending exclusively calomel for the cure of croup, and declaring in no one instance had he lost a patient when its administration

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had protracted the duration of the life, and other mortal symptoms. That the Sub Muc Hydron is an important article in the treatment of this disease when its administration is preceded by emetics bleeding &c, no one is disposed to doubt, but were it solely confided in for the cure of any such morbid case of except, I am fearful that he who thus tampered, would be constrained to witness the asphyxiation of a suffocated infant, and realize in no small degree the folly of tampering with disease. In the treatment of Spanish-trachy whether inflammatory or spasmodic the same remedies are to be employed, with a little variation in the extent of their application.

When called to a patient before any

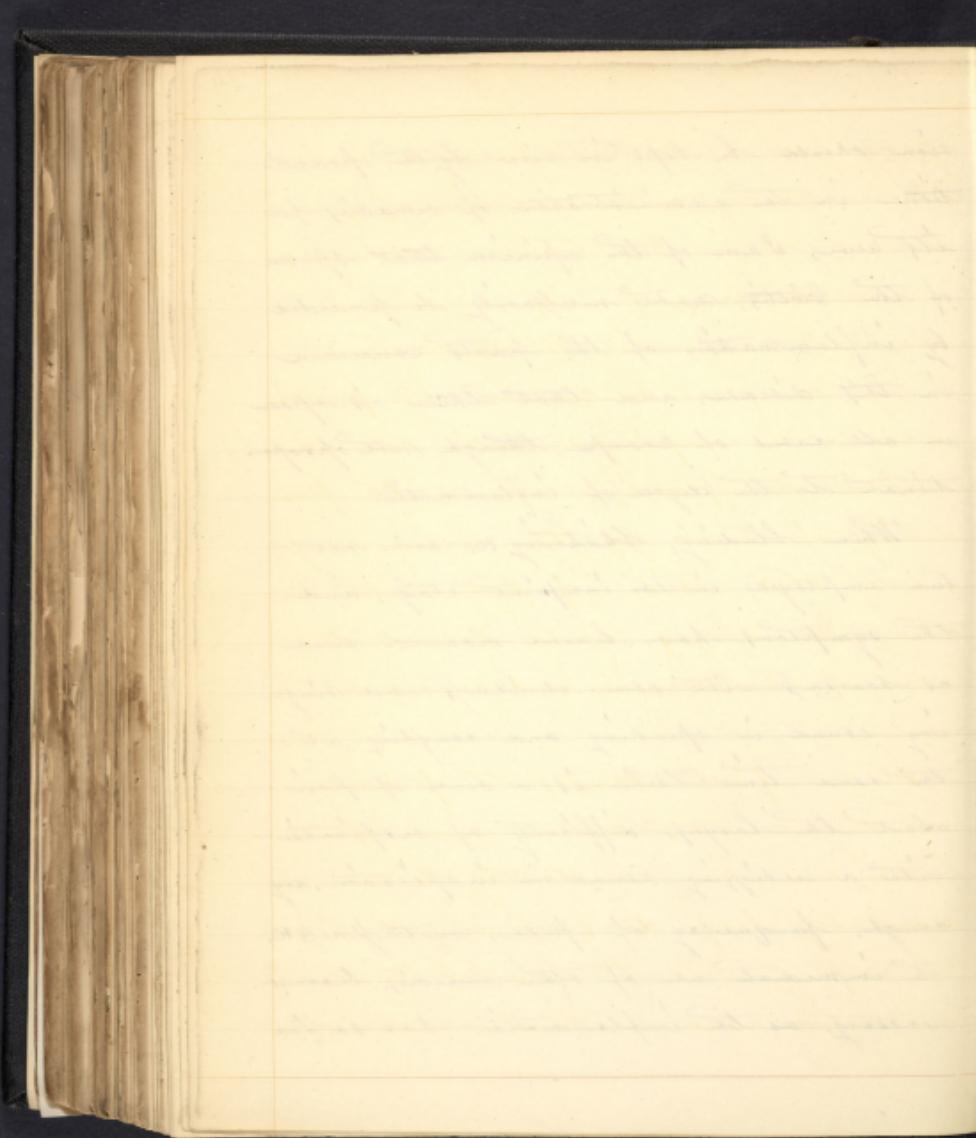


of the violent symptoms have made their appearance, when there is but a slight difficulty of breathing, and when the cough has not yet assumed that peculiarity, which is one of the distinctive marks of croup, or when this is beginning to appear, some such wine, if actively purgative in, be sufficient to avert the attack, particularly if it be followed by the application of a blister to the throat. The actions of the remedy in relieving this affection, are without difficulty explained, - bleeding by reducing inflammation, and blistering by resolution or counteraction, will generally allay the irritation already existing, and prevent spasm which may be its consequence. Although I have divided croup into inflammatory and spasmodic, and believe that division



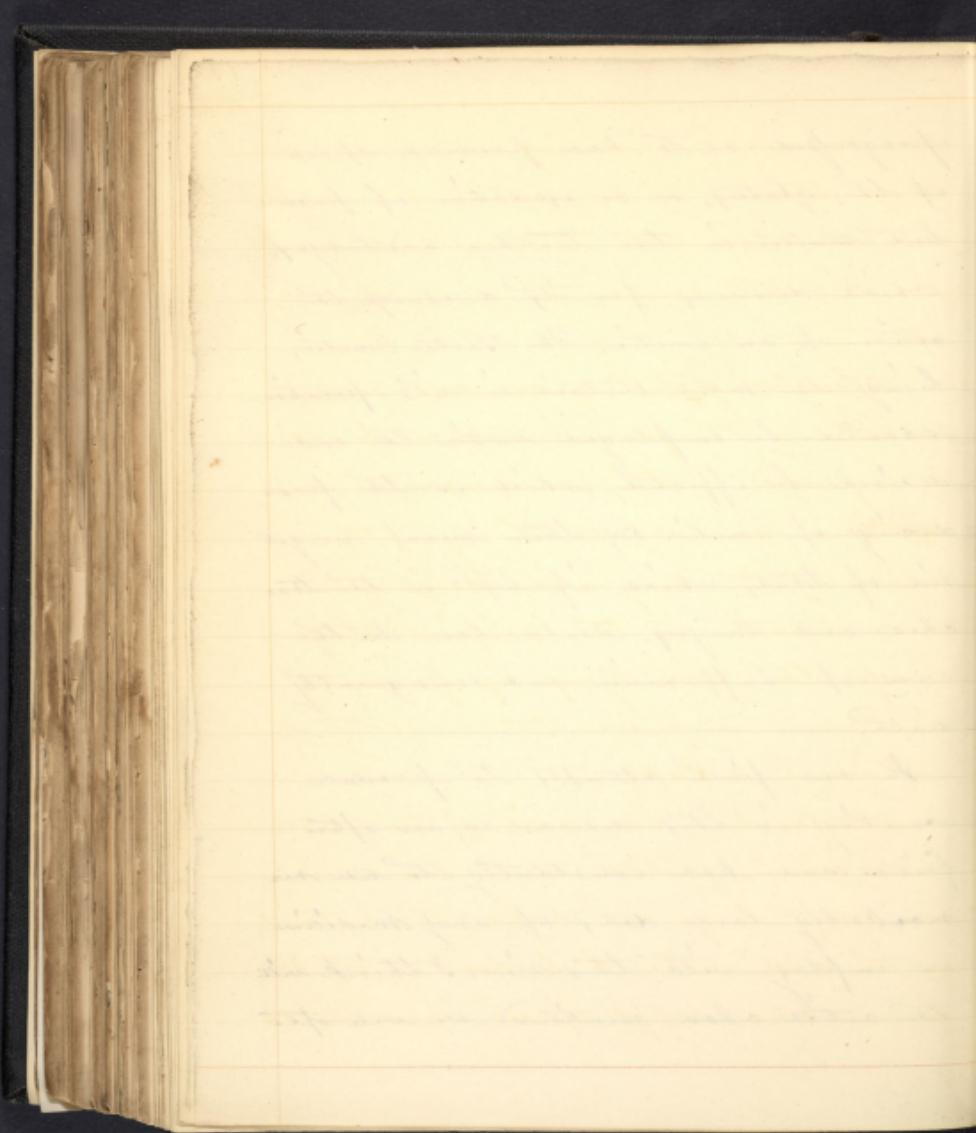
tion should be kept in view by the practitioner in the administration of remedy for its cure, I am of the opinion that spasms of the glottis, made necessarily by the inflammation of the parts concerned in the disease, and that there is spasm in all cases of croup, though not proportionate to the degree of inflammation.

When bleeding, blistering &c. have not been employed in the incipient stage, and the symptoms have become violent, such as hoarseness with some shrillness and ringing sound in speaking and coughing at the same time there is a sense of pain about the larynx, difficulty of respiration with a whizzing sound in inspiration, dry cough, frequency of pulse, notwithstanding the immediate use of other remedies becomes necessary, as the inflammation has so far



prospered as to have produced spasms of the glottis, or an exudation of phlegm and mucus in the trachea and larynx, which demands for its discharge the action of an emetic. The Tartar Emetic, being the most certain in its operation, should be employed until the end desired be effected, which is the producing of emesis. By these means, we get rid of that, which if left in the trachea and larynx, would soon be the cause of suffocation, and consequently death.

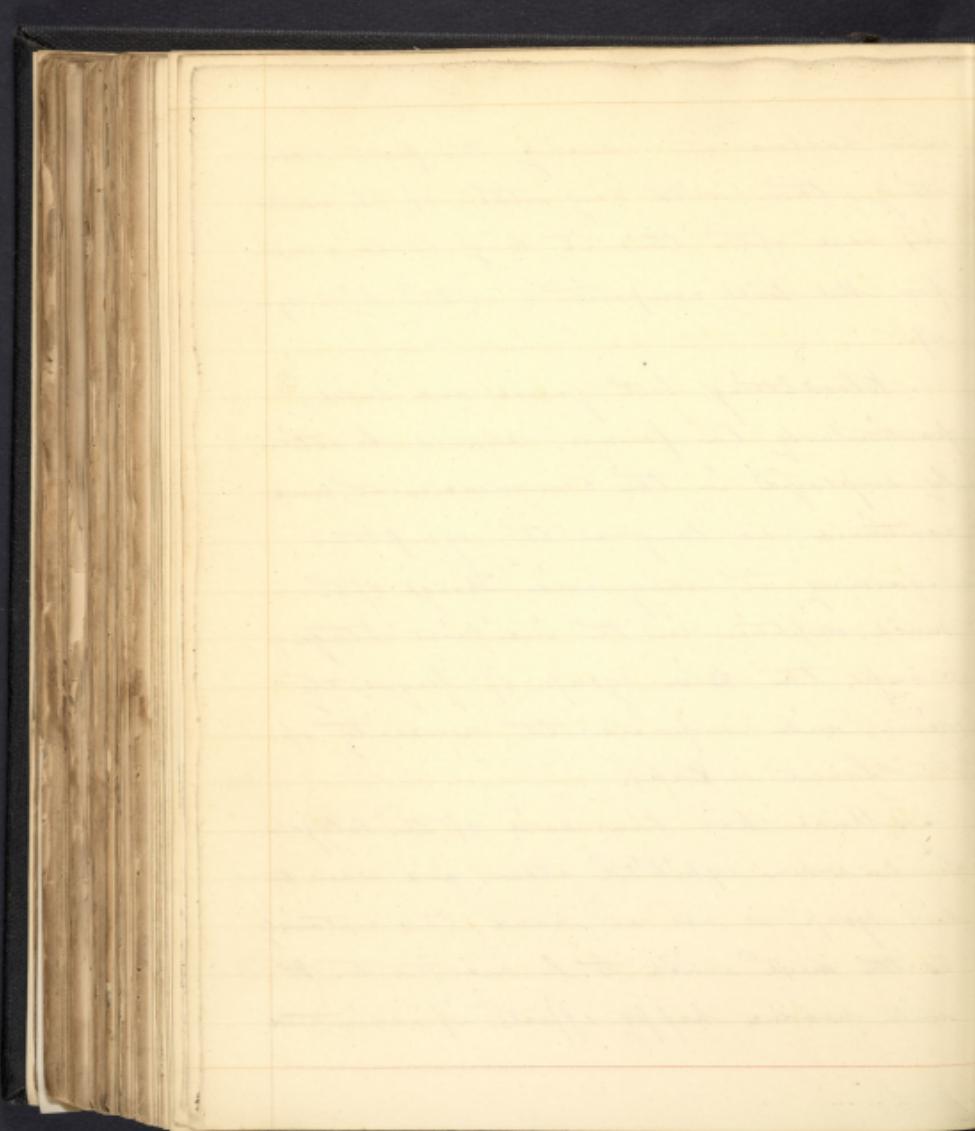
In our first attempts to produce vomiting in this disease, we are often foiled, and have constantly to use unmercifully large doses of any medicine we employ with this view. I think vice the article above mentioned we will often



ever succeed in inducing the first vomit-  
ing, than with any other of the emetics;  
and after this it may be laid aside  
for the still composition, or the hir-syr-  
up.

Bloodletting, both general and local,  
particularly the former, should be active-  
ly employed in the commencement, and  
continued so long as the symptoms  
requiring it may abide, though often  
much debility in the incipient stage of  
croup. The hir-syrup if frequently  
given, will supersede the necessity of  
the lancet or cap.

Much has been said of the Polygala  
sinensis when exhibited alone, and when the  
hir-syrup is not at hand, this certainly  
is the most article to be resorted to. It  
will produce happy effects if administered



after inflammation has been subdued, but as long as high action exists in the system it is too stimulating to be productive of benefit.

It is after the more violent symptoms have been met by their proper remedies, that calomel will be found useful, and then should be given in large doses, at short intervals.

The warm bath is an important remedy in this disease, and is almost indispensable, as it promotes the operation of emetics, and determines to the surface; by which the trachea and larynx are much relieved.

The operation of tracheotomy has been recommended, as a dernier resort, for the relief of those laboring under severe attacks of cramp, with a view of extracting an adhesions membrane, which has been



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found in some cases after death. This operation cannot afford much relief; as it is only necessary when the membrane has extended to the bronchial ramifications; and then, it would be useless, because that portion of the membrane which causes the death of the patient cannot be acted on by any instrument that could be employed with safety.

Unfortunate for humanity, the physician is not always called, in this disease, until it has advanced to alarming violence, when the simultaneous actions of Cometics, Blisters, Bleeding and the warm Bath, are of no avail. But when he is present at the commencement, I must again recommend the use of the lancet, for I believe at this stage the disease is completely under the con-



tal of this instrument; on the contrary if this be neglected, and enough sufficient to pass unmolested through its first stages, it gathers such strength from propagation, in some cases, as afterwards to defy all earthly attempts to rescue from impending death the subjects of its attack.

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